ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

Epping Rural District

FOR THE YEAR 1915.

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EPPING RURAL DISTRICT

FOR THE YEAR 1915.

GENTLEMEN,

Owing to pressure of work caused by the present unusual conditions I have only just been able to complete the Annual Report for 1915.

At the suggestion of the Local Government Board, contained in a circular letter, I have made my Report for the past year as short as possible, and have omitted many of the details usually inserted. This Report, therefore, is confined to a summary of what has taken place during the year.

On the last pages will be found the Vital Statistics.

About the middle of February Mr. H. S. Stewart, a Local Government Board Inspector, visited the District to investigate the Housing conditions. In his Report he stated that cottages were required in most of the Parishes of the District. You will remember that this Report was sent to you for your observations, and that you replied that you felt the present time was not a suitable one to consider housing schemes. The matter was therefore left in abeyance.

During the year there was a large influx of military to the District. The major portion of these was encamped on Wintry Farm, between Epping and Thornwood. And during almost the whole of the year there were troops billeted in Harlow. This, especially the Wintry Farm Camp, which was occupied all during the summer, entailed much scavenging work, which was carried out satisfactorily.

Water Supply.—The Herts and Essex Water Works Company's mains have been extended to Netteswell Cross and Burnt Mill Districts, and the houses have been connected. The water supply in the Parish of Netteswell is now satisfactory. Epping Green and Matching still lack a good supply.

Sewerage.—The Netteswell Sewerage Scheme was completed during the year, and is working satisfactorily. Nearly the whole of the houses have been connected. The remainder are in hand, and will shortly be completed. When this is done the whole of the houses in this portion of the District will have water closets supplied with water through flushing cisterns and new drains. The sanitary condition of the District will therefore be greatly improved.

There are now systems of sewers and sewerage works in the following Parishes:—Chigwell, 2; Theydon Bois, 1; North Weald, 2; Harlow, 1; Netteswell, 1; Roydon, 1.

Samples of sewerage effluent taken during the year from the whole of the works have proved satisfactory.

Milk Supply.—The whole of the cowsheds have been inspected during the year. One very insanitary cowshed at Epping Upland has been closed. One cow found to be in a very poor condition, and evidently diseased, was destroyed.

Bake-houses and Slaughter-houses.—The bake-houses and Slaughter-houses in the District have all been inspected from time to time, and as a rule were found to be satisfactory. Unsound meat was surrendered on two occasions.

Housing and Town Planning Act.—On account of the Assistant Sanitary Inspector's absence on active service, work under the Housing and Town Planning Act has been suspended. It will be seen, however, by reference to the summary of work done by the Chief Sanitary Inspector that a large number of improvements to dwelling-houses have been carried out during the year.

Infectious Diseases.—During the year 88 cases of infectious disease occured. These were as follows :—

Diphtheria	6
Erysipelas	4
Scarlet Fever	54
Enteric Fever	1
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	4
Poliomyelitis	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	11
Other forms of Tuberculosis	7
Total	88

This number, considering the risk of the introduction of infectious disease by the large number of troops and Belgian refugees in the District, compares very favourably with previous years. The figures for 1914 and 1913 being respectively 131 and 140.

It will be observed that four cases of Cerebro-Spinal Fever were notified. As far as I can ascertain these are the first cases of this disease that have occured in the District. The first case occured at Harlow. The remaining three at Nazeing. In connection with these cases I had the benefit of the advice of the County Medical Officer of Health (Dr. Thresh), and the prompt measures taken appear to have been completely satisfactory.

Notification of Birth's Act.—On September 1st the Notification of Birth's Act came into force. The object of this Act is to reduce the infantile mortality rate, and it was suggested that a Lady Health Visitor be appointed to visit the homes of mothers, and if possible of prospective mothers, and instruct them in the care of infants. On this matter I sought as far as possible the advice of all doctors practising in the District. Those whom I communicated with were unanimously of the opinion that such a Health Visitor would not materially contribute to the reduction of the infantile mortality rate. It was the general experience amongst practitioners in this District that mothers, both before and after the birth of their infants, readily seek the advice of their doctor, and carry it out to the best of their ability and the means at their disposal. No steps therefore were taken to appoint such a Visitor.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

W. F. ERSKINE,

M.A., M.D., D.P.H.

(Medical Officer of Health).

Sanitary Inspector's Report for the Year 1915.

Summary of Nuisances abated and Improvements made.

Number of Inspections and Re-Inspections	1115
,, Nuisances abated	336
,, Statutory Notices served	9
,, Complaints received	18
,, Bakehouses on Register	18
,, Bakehouse Inspections	54

Dwelling Houses.

Overcrowding abated	1
Privies abolished	13
Pail Closets abolished	89
Water Closets provided	92
New Pail Closets provided	14
Flushing Cisterns provided or repaired	95
Houses Cleansed and Limewashed	5
Defective Roofs, Gutters and Spouting repaired or provided ...	32
Damp Walls attended to	19
Floors relaid or repaired	9
Animal Nuisances abated	5
Yards paved	9
Closets cleansed	3
Refuse removed	6

Drainage.

Houses connected to Sewers	86
New Drains laid	89
Drains repaired	7
Drains unstopped or cleansed	23

Water Supply.

Wells and Pumps cleansed or repaired	3
Samples of Water taken for Analysis	6
,, ,, reported good	2
,, ,, ,, polluted	4
Wells closed	1
Water Certificates granted for New Houses	10
Number of Houses certified	15
Water Company's water laid on	89

Factory and Workshops Act.

On Register at end of Year	94
Number of Inspections	173
Premises Limewashed	10
Refuse removed	3
Drains unstopped	2

Cowsheds and Dairies.

Number on Register	66
Number of Inspections	97
Premises Cleansed and Limewashed	8
Cowshed discontinued as unsuitable	1
Drain unstopped	1
Diseased Cow removed to Knacker	1

Slaughterhouses and Food Inspection.

Number of Slaughterhouses	10
,, Inspections	42
Premises cleansed	2
Offal and Refuse removed	6
Unsound Meat surrended	2
Floors repaired	2
Drains repaired	2

WALTER BEARD, M.S.I.A., A.R.S.I.

TABLE I.—For Whole District.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births.			Nett Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District.		Deaths of Non-Residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	Deaths Under One Year of Age.		Deaths at all Ages. Total.	
		Uncor. Number.	Number.	Rate.	Number.	Rate.			Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered.	Number.	Rate.
1910	14538	294		20·2			...	23	19	64·6	167	11·4
1911 (Census)	13988	276		20·0			...	27	18	64·0	141	10·0
1912	14138	268	272	19·2			...	44	13	44·7	169	11·9
1913	14288	318	323	22·6			4	29	16	49·8	160	11·1
1914	14475	253	255	17·6	126	8·7	1	44	22	86·2	169	11·7
1915	13828	222	229	16·5	135	9·8	1	43	17	74·2	177	12·8

At Census of 1911: Total population at all ages, 13,988. Number of inhabited houses, 3899. Average number of persons per house, 3·5. Area of District in acres (land and inland water), 36,705.

TABLE II.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1915.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases Notified in Whole District.								Total Cases notitified in each locality of the District.			Total Cases removed to Hospital.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.										
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and upwards.	Epping Sub-District.	Chigwell Sub-District.	Harlow Sub-District.	
Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	6	...	1	3	1	1	...	...	6	...	...	6
Erysipelas	4	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	3	...	1	...
Scarlet Fever ...	54	...	8	33	6	6	1	...	8	11	35	46
Typhus Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever ...	1	...	...	...	1		...	...	...	1	...	...
Relapsing Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis ...	4	...	2	1	1	...	...	...	3	...	1	...
Poliomyelitis	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	11	...	...	3	3	4	1	...	5	1	5	...
Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	7	...	1	5	1	...	...	...	3	2	2	...
Chicken Pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	88	—	12	46	13	11	5	1	29	15	44	52

The following notified cases have been excluded from this Table upon a revision of diagnosis as a result of the further course of the disease, namely :—

Diphtheria	0 cases.
Scarlet Fever	0 ,,
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	0 ,,
	0

TABLE III.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1915.

Causes of Death.	Nett Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District.									Deaths in Public Institutions.
	All Ages	Under 1 Year	1 and under 2	2 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and upwards.	
All Causes Certified ...	176	17	4	2	9	3	11	39	91	...
All Causes Uncertified ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Small Pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Croup ...	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	2
Influenza	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	4	...
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	4	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	...	...
Tuberculous Meningitis ...	2	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cancer, Malignant Disease	23	...	...	...	...	...	3	7	13	...
Rheumatic Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningitis	4	...	...	1	2	1	...	...	...	...
Organic Heart Disease ...	17	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	8	...
Bronchitis	22	2	...	...	...	...	...	6	14	...
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	11	1	3	...	...	...	2	...	5	...
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhœa and Enteritis ...	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...
Cirrhosis of Liver	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Alcoholism	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	4	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	...
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth ...	7	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide	2	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Defined Diseases ...	41	1	...	...	2	...	3	10	25	...
Diseases ill-defined or unknown	25	3	...	...	...	1	...	1	20	...
Totals	177	17	4	2	9	3	11	40	91	2

TABLE IV.

INFANT MORTALITY.

1915. Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under 1 Year of Age.

Cause of Death.	Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.	1-3 Months.	3-6 Months.	6-9 Months.	9-12 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
All Causes { Certified ...	6	1	...	...	7	2	2	3	3	17
All Causes { Uncertified ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Convulsions	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	2
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Diarrhœa	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	2
Atelectasis	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Congenital Malformations ...	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	2
Premature Birth	4	...	...	...	4	1	...	...	...	5
Other Causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2
Totals ...	6	1	...	...	7	2	2	3	3	17

Nett Births in the year { legitimate 219; illegitimate 10

Nett Deaths in the year of { legitimate infants 17; illegitimate infants 0